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**Ward, G. H. B.** *The Truth About Spain.* Pp. xiii, 292. Price, \$2.00. New York: Cassell & Co., Ltd., 1911.

We have long waited for a book about Spain which would adequately describe the actual conditions, political, social and economic. We must still wait. Mr. Ward's book is highly interesting summer reading. It describes the abuses which impress every visitor to the Peninsula, but there is no perspective. The material is fugitive and though it does tell the truth about the cases described, it does not tell the truth about Spain. It would be quite as unfair were an author to write about the United States from the background of a study of Tammany, the New York customs frauds and the conditions of travel and agriculture in our southern states. In his statement of fact there are few exaggerations but the relation of the facts in any particular case to the typical case is missed. For example, one who has England in mind can hardly castigate the Spanish farmer as a ne'er-do-well because Argentine and Russian wheat competes with the native product. Slow though Spanish freight trains be, it should not "be considered a marvel" if they seldom run "on an average twenty miles an hour"—at least one making that average speed in the United States would also be a marvel.

Taken as fugitive, illustrative material this is a good book. It portrays the abuses in education, customs, clerical establishment, "alternating ministries" and bossism in politics more clearly than any of the many recent discussions. For one who wants to learn about the abuses found in Spain to-day this is the book.

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#### REVIEWS

**Abbott, Lyman.** *The Spirit of Democracy.* Pp. vi, 215. Price, \$1.25. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1911.

In this volume, Dr. Abbott has published in a somewhat amplified and extended form the substance of a series of lectures which he delivered before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences during the winter of 1909-10.

Inasmuch as a great variety of subjects are discussed in the twelve chapters which compose the book, it is not surprising that a considerable part of the material presented makes very "thin" reading. Especially is this true of the first five chapters which deal with "The Birth of Democracy," "The Tendency of Democracy," "The Pagan and Hebrew Ideals of the Family," and "The Evolution of Education." In the last-mentioned chapter the author, strange to say, since he is writing of Democracy, omits all mention of the very important part played by the working class in the establishment of the free public school system in the United States. The strongest parts of the book are found in those chapters devoted to "Present Conditions in Industry," "Political Socialism," and "Industrial Democracy." In fact, so strong and radical is their tone that the reader is constrained to turn back to the title page to see if it really is the editor of "The Outlook" who is responsible for them. Dr. Abbott does not mince his words at any point of the discussion.

The author condemns the wages system in no uncertain terms: First, because it has divided society into two fairly distinct classes, the employing and the employed; second, because it has made possible the concentration of wealth; and third, because it has aided in the creation of a pauper and a criminal class. In replying to the question "Is there any remedy for existing evils?" he boldly asserts that he does not believe "that either regulation or gradual moral reform or charity will set the world right." "I do not believe," he continues, "that the evils of our present industrial system will be cured by anything less than a radical change—though it may be, and I think it will be, a gradual one." The reader feels that Dr. Abbott is about to declare for Socialism and is somewhat surprised, unless he knows the author from his past works, to find that instead of Socialism he merely proposes that indefinite sort of hybrid of all reforms and Trade Unionism commonly known as "Industrial Democracy." What is meant by this is more definitely expressed by his desire "to see a state of society in which there will be few or no capitalists who do not have to labor, and few or no laborers who are compelled to remain all their lives without becoming capitalists, a state of society in which no man will live on the fruits of another man's labor, and no man will be denied the fruits of his own labor." As co-operating movements towards this goal he enumerates "conservation, the single tax, the growth of corporations, the beginnings of profit-sharing through stockholding, the development of the industrial virtues—thrift and temperance—and of industrial intelligence and the growth of labor unions."

Socialism is condemned by Dr. Abbott, not because it "is an impossible ideal," for he holds that all true ideals are possible, but because it is no ideal at all. He brands it as being opposed to industrial and individual liberty, and destined, if ever tried, to prove injurious and unjust to all concerned, an industrial servitude to a new master, the State.

The volume is written in Dr. Abbott's inimitable style, direct and very much to the point. However, with the exception of the three vigorously written chapters, as above noted, it contains little that merits comment. It is difficult, very difficult, in this day and time in discussing Democracy, to say anything new or to say anything very much worth while that has not already been said many times in as many different ways.

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**Alvarez, Alexandre.** *Le Droit International American.* Pp. 386. Paris: A. Pedone, 1910.

Professor Alvarez, formerly of the University of Chile, presents a review of American international law which is sure to arouse much interest especially in the United States. His point of view is Latin-American and the discussions on that account treat the subject from an angle different from that to which we are accustomed.

Publicists, it is asserted have overlooked or underestimated the impor-